

**FACT SHEET**

**INTERPRETIVE AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE DIRECT FINAL NEW  
SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND EMISSION GUIDELINES FOR  
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS**

**TODAY'S ACTION...**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending the direct final rule to regulate emissions of non-methane organic compounds from municipal solid waste landfills. Although these amendments clarify the regulation for landfill owners and regulatory agencies, they do not change the emission control requirements or the impact of the regulation.
- ! The amendment reinstates regulatory text that was removed from the promulgated rule due to errors in the amendatory instructions for the direct final rule published in the Federal Register on June 16, 1998.
- ! This amendment clarifies our original intent regarding what constitutes a reportable exceedence, and the monitoring and recordkeeping requirements for boilers and process heaters with design heat input capacity equal to or greater than 44 megawatts.
- ! This amendment corrects typographic and formatting errors.

**SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE EPA'S MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE  
LANDFILL DIRECT FINAL RULE**

- ! This amendment adds paragraphs 60.752(b)(2)(ii)(A) and (B), and paragraphs 60.752(b)(2)(iii)(B)(1) and (2) back into the rule. These paragraphs were deleted from the promulgated rule due to an error in the administrative instructions in the direct final rule published in the Federal Register on June 16, 1998.
- ! This amendment corrects an inconsistency between what constitutes a reportable exceedence (section 60.758(c)(1)(I)), and the monitoring (section 60.756(b)(1)) and recordkeeping (section 60.758(b)(2)) requirements for boilers and process heaters.
- ! The amendment corrects typographic and formatting errors in the direct final rule language and preamble that could be confusing and misleading.

**BACKGROUND**

- ! On March 12, 1996 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of the Clean Air Act, issued a final regulation that controls emissions of a variety of air pollutants from new and existing large municipal solid waste landfills. The regulation included a New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) that applied to new, modified, and reconstructed landfills as well as emission guidelines that applied to existing landfills.
- ! The regulation requires installation of gas collection and control systems for new and existing landfills designed to hold 2.5 million megagrams and 2.5 million cubic meters or more of waste that emit greater than or equal to 50 megagrams per year of non-methane organic compounds (NMOC). The gas control systems must reduce landfill emissions by 98 percent. Landfills subject to EPA's regulation accept and handle everyday household waste; they do not handle regulated hazardous waste.
- ! On June 16, 1998 EPA published a direct final rule in the Federal Register that amended the promulgated regulation. The direct final rule amendments modified definitions and clarified the timing of a landfill's permit obligations. In addition, several editorial modifications were made for consistency and clarity. The changes to the regulation did not have significant impacts on the originally projected compliance costs, environmental benefits, burden on industry, or the number of affected facilities.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EPA'S DIRECT FINAL RULE TO REDUCE NON-METHANE ORGANIC COMPOUND EMISSIONS FROM MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS**

- ! EPA's final air rule for municipal solid waste landfills will achieve significant reductions in emissions of VOCs and air toxics, such as benzene, carbon tetrachloride, and chloroform. It will reduce emissions of VOCs, air toxics, and malodorous compounds from existing and new landfills by over 90,000 tons annually (a 53 percent reduction from current levels). It will also result in significant reductions in emissions of methane, a major constituent of landfill gas and a potent greenhouse gas. By reducing methane emissions, EPA's regulation will also increase safety in and near landfills.
- ! Today's technical amendments will not change the costs or emission reductions of the final rule issued in March 1996 (as amended in June 1998).

### **HOW WILL THE AMENDMENT AFFECT INDUSTRY?**

- ! The amendment will reduce the chance for non-compliance by reinstating language related to active and passive collection systems, and control devices.
- ! The amendment corrects inconsistencies between monitoring, and reporting and recordkeeping

requirements. This correction will eliminate unnecessary monitoring of boilers and process heaters with design heat input capacities equal to 44 megawatts, making monitoring consistent with reporting and record keeping requirements.

- ! The correction of typographic and formatting errors will make the regulation more readable for the regulated community.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

- ! Interested parties can download the amendment from EPA's web site on the Internet under recent actions at the following address: *<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>*. For further information on the amendment, contact Ms. Michele Laur of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5256.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: *<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>*.